

# HUMN 1066 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102913

Coordinator Arunima Kishore Das (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Arunima Kishore Das/>)

**Description** Introduction to Culture and Society examines the ways culture - as both representation and practice - shapes individual and collective identities. It will focus on the rituals and routines of everyday life, and their connection to our wider social relationships. The subject will also explore inequality both in Australia and globally, the social structures that generate this inequality and the cultural processes by which we mark status and social distinction.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Sociology

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 1 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** HUMN 1017 - Everyday Life  
HUMN 1018 - Everyday Life (WSTC)

## Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this Unit, students will be able to:

1. Exercise sociological and cultural concepts and frameworks to make sense of human experience in ways that go beyond 'common sense' accounts of the world.
2. Recognise the role of symbolic creativity in everyday life and its connection to social relations and institutions.
3. Develop an ethnographic understanding of cultural practices, both familiar and distant, in order to make sense of their larger significance to social groups.
4. Research the dimensions of social inequality in Australia and globally
5. Identify both the ways social inequalities are marked in cultural terms, and the wider structures and institutions that serve to reproduce those inequalities.
6. Understand how globalisation and global inequalities shape everyday life in contemporary Australia.

## Subject Content

### Section 1: Culture, Society and Everyday Life

Week 1: The Idea of Society

Week 2: Cultural Representation

Week 3: Cultural Practices of Everyday Life

### Section 2: Practising Culture: Self, Community and Symbolic Creativity

Week 4: Presentation of Self - Getting Dressed

Week 5: Communal Rituals - Ethnographies of Gift Giving

Week 6: Food Consumption and Everyday Multiculturalism

### Section 3: Economic Inequality, Boundary Marking and Social Distinction

Week 7 Dimensions of Inequality in Australia

Week 8 The Geographies of Inequality: Poverty and Prosperity in Sydney

Week 9 Parsing Poverty: From the Undeserving Poor to the Bogans

### Section 4: The 'Australian Way of Life' and its Contradictions

Week 11: Divisions of Labour: Housework, Care Work, Gender and Race.

Week 12: The Backyard & the Bush: Culture & Nature in the Age of Climate Change

Week 13: Conclusion

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Reflection	500 words	20	N	Individual	Y
Essay	1500 words	40	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	2 hours	40	N	Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

### Spring (2025)

#### Bankstown City

##### On-site

**Subject Contact** Arunima Kishore Das (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Arunima Kishore Das/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN1066\\_25-SPR\\_BK\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1066_25-SPR_BK_1#subjects))

#### Penrith (Kingswood)

##### On-site

**Subject Contact** Arunima Kishore Das (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Arunima Kishore Das/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN1066\\_25-SPR\\_KW\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1066_25-SPR_KW_1#subjects))

#### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

##### On-site

**Subject Contact** Arunima Kishore Das (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Arunima Kishore Das/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN1066\\_25-SPR\\_PS\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1066_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects))